

EPA Environmental Education Grant Status Report

Grant Title: **Masonville Cove Environmental Education Programming**

Assistance #	<u>NE 96366001</u>
Report:	<u>Status Report</u>
Report Date	<u>7/6/21</u>
Budget/Project Period Dates	<u>4/1/21 – 6/30/21</u>
Grantee's Project Officer's Name	<u>Kathy Kirkland</u>
Grantee's Project Officer's Telephone #	<u>(215) 814-5176</u>

Federal Funding:	<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>
Federal Funds Expended:	<u>\$ 55,000.00</u>
Federal Funds Remaining:	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>

GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

This project includes implementation/expansion of two key elements of the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus' (MCEEC) existing environmental education plan. Project goals are: 1) an advanced expansion of the School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project (SLURRP) in two Baltimore City Title I high schools, including in-school outreach, environmental-focused service learning, and helping students meet Maryland's Environmental Literacy standards, and 2) Community Engagement events and programs that involve residents of all ages in environmental literacy activities and hands-on stewardship. Program objectives are to increase participants' environmental knowledge of storm water runoff (causes, sources, and how to prevent it), provide an awareness of land use and local environmental issues, inspire behavioral change, reduce litter, and promote/increase environmental stewardship in the community.

PLANNED VS ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS (MUST INCLUDE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES):

School-based Programming

The grant program was designed to serve approximately 120 (9th-12th grade) students at two Title I Baltimore City high schools: Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove and New Era Academy. In June 2020, Living Classrooms completed service to 180 students from these schools: three Biology classes from New Era Academy (approximately 120 students) and two Biology classes from Ben Franklin HS (approximately 60 students).

Subawards

Below is a summary of the subaward progress:

- **Baltimore Community ToolBank:** Subaward completed.
- **ClearShark H2O:** Subaward completed.
- **National Aquarium:** During this reporting period, the National Aquarium coordinated with the Brooklyn Branch of the Enoch Pratt Library System to conduct a virtual program on April 22. The program was attended by 41 students. It introduced students to Masonville Cove and the things you can do to enjoy the outdoors there. This was followed by a story time and a virtual field trip. They also provided the library with "make and take" packages

that families could pick up that included Masonville brochures, bookmarks, folding binoculars, stickers, and program flyers.

On April 26, the National Aquarium hosted an in-person Earth Day program for the Brooklyn Boys and Girls Club. National Aquarium staff members led 13 students through a community science program at local Garrett Park. The students were given biodiversity backpacks and encouraged to discover what kinds of species are found in the local community park. Students used the iNaturalist app to record and report what they found.

Several of the Baltimore City Recreation Centers re-opened in April, and the National Aquarium has scheduled summer programs with them in order to conclude their subaward work by summer.

Community Engagement

The Masonville Campus remains open (outdoor spaces only) with increased weekend hours (Monday-Saturday 9 am to 4pm). A “virtual receptionist” allows visitors to sign in before going out onto the property. During this reporting period, 562 individuals visited the campus for self-led activities, such as hiking, birding, geocaching, and a “storybook walk.”

Throughout the spring, Living Classrooms Foundation staff at Masonville Cove conducted a Professional Development Series to help local teachers lead students in safe, outdoor, environmental education activities. The goal of the Professional Development Series was to provide teachers with the tools and confidence to venture outdoors with their classes, and thus increase student engagement and environmental literacy. Thirty-two participating teachers received a set of supplies used during the training so that they have the tools required to replicate the activities with their classes. Workshops were conducted at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus on April 17, May 6, May 16, and June 5. The workshops spanned four topics: Scientific Monitoring, Tackling Trash, Planning and Planting a Native Pollinator Garden, and Leaf Pack and Biotic Index Survey.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN UPDATE: N/A

HIGHLIGHTS:

Baltimore City's favorite pair of nesting bald eagles at Masonville Cove have hatched their eggs and are now raising three healthy juveniles. They are about 12 weeks old and should be fledging soon. Since Bald Eagles are federally protected, access to portions of the property have been restricted but will be lifted two weeks after all three eaglets begin to fly. The trail to Captain Trash Wheel remains open and provides many direct views of the nest and other birding opportunities.

POLLUTION PREVENTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

On April 24, the Masonville partnership participated in Project Clean Stream. More than 45 individuals participated in this annual event and picked up 1,500 lbs. of trash from the

Masonville shoreline. On May 12, LCF staff hosted a community shoreline clean up. At this event, 110 lbs. of trash were collected by the 6 participants.

This spring, Masonville educators helped students at two local schools establish outdoor pollinator gardens. At least 70 native plants were installed in the school gardens, and an additional 50 native plants were sent home with students for planting.

EQUIPMENT: N/A

AREAS OF CONCERN - DEFICIENCIES/CORRECTIVE ACTION: N/A

RENEGOTIATED COMMITMENTS: N/A

SUGGESTIONS FOR EPA SUPPORT: N/A

RESOLUTION PLAN AND TIMING: N/A

ACTION ITEMS: N/A

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: N/A